

N.B.C.'s TOWERING "KING"

The NBC telecast of its special drama series "King" at this writing is scheduled for February 12, 13, 14 on prime evening time. Written by Abby Mann, author of "Judgement at Nuremberg", "Ship of Fools" and "Kojak", the script is described by many as the year's outstanding TV film.

Apart from its enormously important subject, the author has been the first to extract from Congressional testimony the story of the F.B.I.'s persecution of Dr. King, the effort of the late President John Kennedy and his brother, Robert, to curb them, all told within the intensely human story of Dr. King and his wife, Coretta. Newsweek headed its ecstatic preview in a February issue as "N.B.C.'s Towering King".

Whether some are jolted by its intense dramatic truth, one fact stands out: it is a rare tribute to the people whose courage changed so much of the face of America. It is at the same time a tribute to those who eschewed any pressure or censorship to moderate the frequently harsh truths the drama depicts. Most of all, a film retelling the days of heroism displayed over more than a decade ago gives present day white and Black young people a picture of what an earlier generation did to "redeem the soul of America."

Television rose to heights reminding everyone that its potential for good has not been lost, even if it has too often been abused.

Paul Winfield's depiction of Dr. King is being talked of even before the film's release as one of the greatest performances in television history.

PRESIDENT SIGNS MAJOR REORGANIZATION PLAN TO INSURE EMPLOYMENT FAIRNESS

An enormous stride forward for civil rights long advocated by the King Center was in sight in February 1978 when legislation to expand the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by absorbing the scattered functions of nearly 20 government agencies was unveiled by the President.

Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton, dynamic head of E.E.O.C., paved the way for the change by her swift moves which injected a striking degree of efficiency in this agency so long plagued by confusion. Mrs. King is pictured below at the ceremony in the White House in which President Carter announced the new status of E.E.O.C. as one element in the furtherance of his pledge to make government more effective and yet more simple. The President described the reorganization as the most significant civil rights action in a decade.



AMBASSADOR ANDREW J. YOUNG CITES GROWTH OF NONVIOLENCE IN BLACK AFRICAN THOUGHT

Ambassador Andrew J. Young during the January 15th observances made an analysis of advances in nonviolence that was striking for its insight and originality.

Drawing upon his special experience with African affairs and leaders, Ambassador Young pointed out that some 15 years ago there was a somewhat faddish acceptance of Franz Fanon, the late Black African leader. He was extolled for his thesis that violence was not only inevitable in social change, but was *desirable* because it purified the personality and

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FULL EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION GAINS MOMENTUM

Ironically, the death of Hubert Humphrey, the renowned champion of Full Employment, has generated special pressure to pass the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment bill. With President Carter's endorsement and its anti-inflation feature its chances have brightened markedly. Seeking to capitalize on the opportunity which would honor the memory of Hubert Humphrey, the Full Employment Action Council held a workshop at the end of January to train a special corps of full employment activists in lobbying and coalition building. Scores of representatives of churches, unions and civic organizations were put through educational programs so that they may communicate convincingly to members of Congress.

In addition to this activity, the Council has encouraged a postcard campaign coordinated by the Democratic Agenda. This effort has already produced from a single international union, the International Association of Machinists, 255, 724 signed cards. This single campaign had a visible effect in Congress. Others, of course, are on the front burner.

AMBASSADOR ANDREW J. YOUNG (cont'd.)

character of the oppressed. His doctrines, chilling in their implication, won great acceptance in Africa, Europe and the U.S. among Blacks and many white activists.

Today more than a decade later Ambassador Young finds from direct experience that Black African leaders, while not accepting nonviolence as a presently useful policy, do not insist it is inevitable and perhaps more important do not enthrone it as desirable. They would welcome in 1978 nonviolent social change. They feel the repressive and unjust posture of the Smiths and Voesters force the resort to violence. In short, no one of standing today among Black Africans is upholding Fanon's thesis that violence is inherently a social good. This marked change in African thinking is in itself a substantial victory for nonviolence.

DR. MARTIN KING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES REACH MILLIONS DURING JAN. 14 to 16

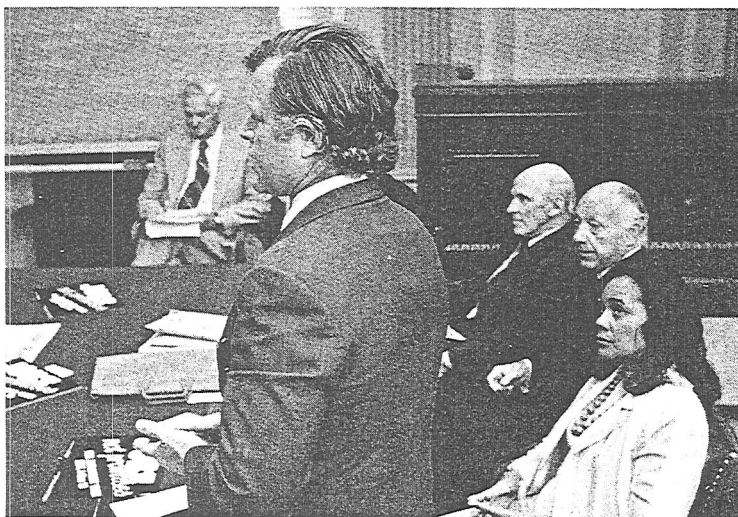
It has been given to few people that a decade after their death the deeds of their life are increasingly recognized for their grandeur. On the 10th anniversary observance of Dr. King's birthday thousands of celebrations were held across the nation and in foreign lands. The Center was a busy service center attempting to assist and advise the huge variety of events. Some were large and carefully planned by deeply involved participants. Others were semi-spontaneous such as school assemblies organized by students and teachers or smaller yet on a classroom level. From a different perspective some events were in major cities and others in hamlets far from large population centers. Churches, unions, city halls and Army, Navy and Air Force bases saw observances of great ingenuity, imagination and variety.

Each in some way recorded both the profound achievements of Dr. King and his movement and underlined the unfinished work remaining for this generation to accomplish. On this 10th anniversary it is fair to say no Black American who has ever lived has so deeply affected the consciousness of the nation and the world.

INITIATION OF THINK TANK PROJECT STEPPED UP

The Martin Luther King Center, working with a group of distinguished academics, activists, and research specialists has been hard at work to develop a special institute to research, identify and analyze problems of major concern in Black communities.

Recognizing there is a paucity of responsible, adequately trained people to organize inquiries and produce useful material for public figures, legislators, writers, etc., the Center has taken the first steps toward concretely establishing the funding, personnel and situs for this major intellectual effort. A series of meetings in the past year will be followed by a full design early this year.



At a Capitol Hill meeting, an exchange of views on full employment between Mrs. Coretta Scott King and senators (l-r) Edward Kennedy, Alan Cranston, and Jacob Javits.